

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 153

By Brown

A RESOLUTION to commend the group of extraordinary individuals who made significant and ongoing contributions to the Thirtieth Annual Legislative Retreat of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators and to the recognition and appreciation of Black History in Tennessee politics, including members of the Chattanooga State Technical Community College, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and Tennessee State University academic communities, the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and members and staff of the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those estimable individuals who, through their extraordinary efforts and vision, have distinguished themselves as leaders in recognizing and promulgating the significance of Black History in Tennessee politics; and

WHEREAS, in November 2004, under the able leadership of Caucus Chair Representative Tommie Brown, the Thirtieth Annual Legislative Retreat of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators was expertly coordinated and graciously hosted by an assembly of talented individuals whom we recognize and thank during this, the month of February 2005, in acknowledgement of Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, Chattanooga State Technical Community College was especially generous in hosting the final session of the Retreat on its campus in the C. C. Bond Humanities Building during the evening of November 20, 2004, an inspiring evening that focused on the many outstanding contributions of African American legislators to the State of Tennessee since Reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, as President of that fine educational institution, Dr. James Catanzaro had the distinct pleasure to act as host to the Retreat, proudly remarking, "We were proud to be part of the Celebration of Tennessee's advancement in civil rights and the leadership of Speaker Pro Tem Lois DeBerry; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Dr. Catanzaro, this General Assembly would like to acknowledge the meritorious service of many contributing representatives of the college , including Ms. Mary Knaff, Director of Multicultural Services; Ms. Kathrandra Smith, Marketing Coordinator; Mrs. Linda Miller, Associate Vice President, Marketing; Ms. Judy Lowe, Director of the Center for Distributed Education; Mr. Tim Dills, Assistant Director of the Center for Distributed Education; Mr. Gary Fisher, Director of Media Services; Mr. Bruce Alston, Producer/Engineer Media Services; and Dr. Warren Mackay, Professor of History and Coordinator of Social Sciences; and

WHEREAS, a credit to their home institution, Chattanooga State students who also participated in the Retreat include Lindsay Garth, Willie Moss, Lakeisha Cullom, Latoya Barnes, Emmanuel Garth, Tiffany Lucas, Jemichael Campbell, Joseph Fraizer, Enora Moss, Marcus Morgan, Fleesha Sterling, Lisa Rolle-Evans, Elizabeth Jones, and Tumecca Maddox; and

WHEREAS, members of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga educational community who assisted with this special event include Dr. Dorothy Williams, Professor of Social Work, and Mr. Roland Carter, Professor of Music, as well as students Amanda Flores, Ashland Jones, and Will Yebuah; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bobby Lovett, Professor of History at Tennessee State University, also contributed his abilities and talents to this important occasion; and

WHEREAS, we also salute these organizations' acknowledgment of Dr. Lois DeBerry, an estimable public servant and politician who has been recognized for her hard work and dedication to the advancement of African Americans in Tennessee as the first female African American State Representative in Tennessee, past President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and as Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, without the diligent and dedicated service of the staff of the Tennessee State Library and Archives and the House of Representatives Research Staff, the chronicling of

our honorable African American state legislators, who have ably represented our common interests through their courage, perseverance, goodwill, and faith, would not have been possible; and

WHEREAS, each member of the 104th General Assembly will be presented with a DVD copy of this impressive documentary of the history of African Americans who have served with distinction in the General Assembly of this great State; and

WHEREAS, widely respected within the African American community and throughout the State, Speaker of the House of Representatives Jimmy Naifeh has long been a model of decency, and he treasures the legacy of these venerable Tennesseans who fought tirelessly for a balanced and just society; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that, in accord with the mission of the Tennessee Black Legislative Caucus of State Legislators to memorialize and celebrate the heritage of African Americans who have made a positive influence on our shared history and who have contributed to the development and growth of Tennessee, working to advance the mission of African American pioneer legislators who dedicated their life's work to the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness for all citizens, we pause in our deliberations to acknowledge and honor all those persons deserving of praise for their commitment in contributing to the promotion of both the legacy and the future of African Americans on the occasion of the Thirtieth Annual Legislative Retreat of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators during this, the month of February 2005, also celebrated as Black History Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.